

HONORING ANN BROWN AS THE
LONGEST SERVING CHAIRMAN
OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ann Brown, the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. She has served as Chairman for more than six and a half years, since March 10, 1994. She is by far the longest serving Chairman of the CPSC. The previous record was four years and three months.

Chairman Brown has compiled an outstanding record at the CPSC. When she came to the Agency, she found it virtually moribund, the staff dispirited, and its vital safety mission fallen far from public view. Ann Brown has revitalized the Commission by inspiring its staff and gaining wide public recognition for its safety message through the publicity she has generated for the Agency in the national media.

Chairman Brown has made the safety of children a personal priority. Through effective regulatory action, encouraging voluntary steps by companies, and creating unique public-private partnerships with industry and other governmental agencies, she has enhanced the safety of every child in America.

Shortly after becoming Chairman, she learned that the strings and cords on children's jackets were becoming caught on playground slides and school bus doors and strangling children. She promptly convened a meeting of representatives of the clothing industry and persuaded them to replace the hazardous strings and cords with snaps and Velcro. When a Commission employee developed the idea of a baby safety shower to provide gifts that would make a child's first years of life safer, Chairman Brown created a partnership with the Gerber Corporation to promote these safety showers across the nation. Working with states and local governments, she launched an annual "recall round-up" to get dangerous consumer products out of consumers' homes. She developed a partnership with the US Postal Service to get posters of the "most wanted" dangerous recalled products displayed in post offices across the nation.

In keeping with her commitment to the safety of children, Chairman Brown has given special emphasis to the prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. On her initiative, the Commission issued warnings to parents to remove soft bedding from the cribs of infants under 12 months to avoid the risk of suffocation. This year, the Commission developed a program with seven major retailers of baby bedding products to inform parents on how to keep their babies safe in their beds.

Under Ann Brown's leadership, the CPSC has been recognized for its innovative and effective programs. In 1998, CPSC won the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award for its Fast-track recall program. The award is given by the Ford Foundation, in cooperation with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and the Council for Excellence in Government. Under Fast-track, CPSC gets defective products off store shelves more quickly,

thereby reducing dangers to American consumers.

Chairman Brown has also been personally recognized for her efforts in support of consumer safety. The National Safe Kids Campaign designated her a "Champion of Safe Kids." The National Association of Government Communicators has given her its award as "Government Communicator of the Year" and on September 20 the American Academy of Pediatrics will present her with its prestigious Excellence in Public Service Award for her contributions to children's safety.

Mr. Speaker, the nation is fortunate to have such outstanding public servants as Ann Brown. She has made the CPSC a model of effectiveness for other agencies to emulate. Accordingly, it is appropriate today that we recognize and highly commend Ann Brown as the longest serving Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW REPUBLIC
NEWSPAPER OF MEYERSDALE,
PA

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The New Republic newspaper on its 100th anniversary. I am especially proud to pay this tribute, because The New Republic is the newspaper of my hometown, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

In 1900, The Meyersdale Republican was founded by Samuel A. Kendall as a contribution to the local community. The newspaper was headed by several capable editors in its early years who focused coverage on local concerns like safe sidewalks. As The New Republic grew, the business was incorporated as the Meyersdale Printing and Publishing Company. Throughout its long history, has consistently provided its loyal subscribers with the local news and events that unite communities.

Growing up in the close-knit town of Meyersdale helped make me the person I am today. I am truly thankful to have grown up in an area that emphasizes the importance of families and of community spirit. It is always heartwarming to return to Meyersdale to visit with good friends and to meet new ones. I am proud to call Meyersdale my home.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize The New Republic and the citizens of Meyersdale on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to family and community spirit represent the finest qualities of Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH FOR CHILDHOOD
CANCER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of research and outreach in our nation's fight against childhood cancer. Childhood cancer is the No. 1 cause

of death by disease among children and adolescents; striking more children than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and AIDS combined. Each year more than 12,000 children and teens are diagnosed with cancer and 3,000 die from the disease.

These statistics are disheartening. What is even more frightening though, is how high these statistics would be without the medical advances made in the last few years. Research plays a vital role in the fight against cancer; without it, childhood cancer would be a virtual death sentence. We can proudly say that because of medical breakthroughs, 70 percent or more of the children diagnosed today will be alive and well 5 years later.

I believe we need to continue to support cancer research so children will no longer suffer needlessly.

LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES
TOGETHER ACT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H.R. 3222, the Literacy Involves Families Together Act, otherwise known as the LIFT bill. Passage of this bill not only lifts our spirits, but it will help lift the level of excellence in our teachers, which will benefit our children.

The LIFT program makes improvements to the Even Start Program. Even Start programs work with adults without GED or high school diploma and their children to break cycles of illiteracy. It also provides parents with the skills they need to be their child's teachers and most important advocate. Simply put, the LIFT bill stresses the need for teacher professional development, the use of scientific research, and expands the program so that faith-based programs may partner with the federal government to improve literacy skills throughout our communities.

Earlier this year, Sharon Darling from the National Center for Family Literacy testified before the appropriations subcommittee about the disconnect between what we know from science about how children learn to read and what teachers practice. Many teachers have admitted their frustration about not being equipped with the latest information—they want training and additional professional development. That is why LIFT is so important. It allows states to use federal money to provide training and technical assistance to instructors in Even Start and other programs with a focus on family literacy. In addition to providing instruction, LIFT requires the use of instructional reading programs which are based on scientifically-based research. Thanks to our investments in the National Institutes of Health, we know how we can best teach children to read. This is especially important for children with learning disabilities.

Understanding that children are not the only ones with learning difficulties, the LIFT bill funds research to find the most effective ways to improve literacy among adults with reading difficulties. We know that family literacy is a key component to our children being successful. The Even Start program has helped parents obtain their high school equivalency certificate. By understanding the importance of